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BOOK REVIEWS.

All book reviews are by the editor in chief unless otherwise expressly stated.

Handbook on the Law of Judicial Precedents, or the Science of Case

Law: By Henry Campbell Black, M. A., Author of Black's Law Dictionary, and of Treatises of Judgments, Constitutional Law, Statutory Construction, Tax Titles, Intoxicating Liquors, Bankruptcy, etc. St. Paul, Minn. West Publishing Company. 1912. Price \$3.75.

To find a new law book upon a new subject is so exceedingly interesting that the reviewer must needs hail it almost with the same delight with which an astronomer discovers a new star. There has never been a systematic and comprehensive treatise on the law of judicial precedents and the labyrinth in which the ordinary practitioner finds himself when he reaches this subject has heretofore been well-nigh without a clue. In addition to this we have come upon a time when venerable precedents are under the bombardment of thoughtless demagogues and so-called statesmen. Mr. Black, whilst following the usual rule of the hand-book series—that is to say, to be brief, clear and succinct—has at the same time given us a work not only novel in its character but excellent in its execution. He has considered the nature and authority of judicial precedents; their place in comparative jurisprudence and in equity; the rules which govern the interpretation of judicial decisions and opinions; the processes of analogical argument and of combining cases; the considerations which may affect the force and value of a non-obligatory precedent; and with these he has combined an investigation into the nature of dicta and the methods of their detection, and in a very excellent manner has treated the difficult subject of the cases in which the Federal Courts are constrained to accept and follow the decisions of the State Courts, and those in which they hold themselves free to form an independent judgment; and finally the effect of the reversal or overruling of previous judicial decisions. Mr. Black has not hesitated to express his original ideas upon novel questions or cases of first impression and he has given us a book not only useful but exceedingly interesting.

The American and English Annotated Cases, containing the important cases selected from the current American, Canadian, and English Reports; thoroughly annotated. Editors William M. McKinney and H. Noyes Greene. Volume CXLI. Ann. Cas. 1912 A. Edward Thompson Company, Northport, L. I., N. Y. 1912. Bancroft-Whitney Company, San Francisco. Price \$5.00.

With the issuing of this new volume the Edward Thompson and Bancroft-Whitney Companies have joined hands and the American State Reports cease to exist except in connection with the American and English Annotated Cases. One hundred and forty volumes of the American State Reports have concluded the series. We can therefore expect from the united forces of these two great publishing houses a steady improvement in this very valuable work. The present volume shows the usual care in selection and annotation, and there is a decided improvement in the type page and in the use of a paper which now reduces the bulk of the volume. We look forward to the future issues of this combined venture with much interest.